

RULE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Title 31 ELECTIONS

PART II. Voter Registration and Voter Education

Chapter 7. Standards for Effective Non-Partisan Voter Registration and Voter Education

§701. Department of State's Outreach Activities

A. The department shall develop and update material to be utilized in the department's outreach efforts related to voter registration and voter education. In order to convey the department's outreach message, the department will: send out press releases statewide; make public awareness appearances at public meetings and at educational institutions; hold mock elections; conduct elections (e.g. schools, unions, etc.); and participate in media interviews on television programs and radio station programs.

B. With the passage of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), the department will be procuring a new electronic voting system. As a result, the department shall develop educational materials for voters regarding the use of the voting system in the form of instructional brochures and visual presentations. In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18: 563(C), voters are allowed only three minutes to vote on election day. Therefore, these educational materials will be vital to the successful operation of the voting system by the voters and the voting process.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 18:18(A)(8)(a), R.S. 18:563(C), Public Law 107-252, and R.S. 49:950 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of State, Elections Division, LR 31:3164 (December 2005).

§703. Registrars of Voters

A. All registrars of voters are required to participate in the state's annual voter registration week. The department will be required to provide uniform information to registrars of voters to use when conducting certain outreach activities. These activities shall encourage Louisiana citizens to register to vote, to exercise their right to vote, and to encourage participation of voters as election poll workers. In addition, new registrants and existing registrants will receive information on early voting in person, voting absentee by mail, and voting in person on election day.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 18:18(A)(8)(a), Public Law 107-252, and R.S. 49:950 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of State, Elections Division, LR 31:3165 (December 2005).

§705. Annual Voter Registration Week

A. Under the provisions of R.S. 18:18(A)(8)(b), the official state voter registration week shall be held annually during the last full week which occurs two weeks

prior to the close of registration books for the regular fall primary election. Registrars of voters and their employees are an integral part of this process. Representatives from the Louisiana Registrars of Voters Association shall work with the department on the development of the outreach presentation for various groups of participants. The department will annually update registrars of voters on any legislative changes that will affect outreach activities and information.

B. Voter registration outreach activities should be structured to encourage participants who are not registered to vote to register. Participants should be provided the following information:

1. the requirements to register to vote;
2. how to update voter registration information (such as changes in name and address);
3. voter registration deadlines for scheduled election dates;
4. why a registrant may be removed from the voter registration roles; and
5. registration for individuals with disabilities and residents in nursing homes.

C. During the annual voter registration week, the focus of the department and registrars of voters will not only be on voter registration. Registrars of voters will be encouraging registered voters to go out and exercise their right to vote by informing citizens of the following:

1. the registrant's voting rights;
2. the procedures to follow during early voting in person or voting absentee by mail:
 - a. timing of early voting in person and location of early voting for various scheduled election dates during the year;
 - b. timing of voting absentee by mail;
 - c. type of identification required for early voting in person;
 - d. how to vote absentee by mail;
 - e. how to vote if the registrant is in the military or resides overseas;
 - f. special handicap program for individuals with disabilities; and
 - g. special program for residents of nursing homes;
3. how to vote in person on election day:
 - a. time the polls open and close;
 - b. type of identification required to vote at the polls;
 - c. how individuals with disabilities can vote;
 - d. election dates scheduled during the year; and
 - e. provisional balloting procedures for federal elections only;
4. how to cast a vote;
5. where to obtain a sample ballot;
6. how to use the voting system for that parish;
7. encouraging and recruiting voters to serve as election poll workers on election day;
8. procedures to follow to file a complaint; and
9. procedures to report election fraud or violations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 18:18(A)(8)(a), R.S. 18:18(A)(8)(b), Public Law 107-252, and R.S. 49:950 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of State, Elections Division, LR 31:3165 (December 2005).

§707. Funding for Outreach Efforts

A. The department shall pay for all outreach efforts conducted by employees of the department. If the department is asked to provide a voting system for a private election, the organization requesting the voting system will be responsible for the payment for the hauling of the voting system.

B. The department shall provide registrars of voters with printed materials on voter registration, voter education, voting rights, and the voting system for use during the annual voter registration week. In addition, the department will advertise the annual voter registration week in the official journal of every parish and issue a statewide public service announcement on the annual voter registration week.

C. Although not mandatory, registrars of voters are encouraged to provide other outreach activities and materials tailored toward their individual communities. The registrar of voters must receive advance written approval by the commissioner of elections for the department to pay the expense. If the commissioner of elections gives prior approval, the procurement of said service or materials must be procured in accordance with state or parish purchasing procedures and guidelines. The department, upon receipt of the original invoice and supporting documents, shall pay the expense.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 18:18(A)(8) and R.S. 49:950 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of State, Elections Division, LR 31:3165 (December 2005).

§709. Reporting Requirements

A. Report on Voter Education Programs

1. The commissioner of elections shall develop and provide a report form to be utilized by the registrars of voters in fulfilling the responsibilities of R.S. 18:18(A)(8). This report form shall require the registrar to provide the following information:

a. a listing of all voter registration and voter education events/activities held by the registrar's office, the location, the amount of time spent on the event/activity, the estimated amount of citizen participation, and any other detailed information describing such event/activity;

b. a listing of any group or organization that requested voter registration information or registration forms and the number of completed voter applications received; and

c. any other relevant voter registration activities.

B. Report Deadlines

1. Registrars of voters must submit the report on voter education programs to the department prior to the close of business on December 15 of each year. If December 15 falls on a weekend or holiday, the report form will be due on the last business work day prior to December 15.

2. The department is required to submit a consolidated annual report on the effectiveness of the state's non-partisan voter registration and voter education

programs by January 31 of each year. Information gathered from the annual reports submitted by the registrars of voters, statistical information generated by the statewide voter registration system, and the information generated by the department's outreach division will be utilized to produce this comprehensive report.

3. Under the provisions of R.S. 18:18(8)(a), copies of this comprehensive annual report shall be submitted to the governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives. In addition, the department shall submit copies of this report to the members of the House and Governmental Affairs Committee, members of the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee, members of the State Board of Election Supervisors, and all registrars of voters.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 18:18(A)(8) and R.S. 49:950 et seq.

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